

City of Takoma Park, Maryland

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Press Release

City of Takoma Park Announces New City Manager

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TAKOMA PARK, Md., June 1, 2004 - The Council of the City of Takoma Park announced the selection of a new City Manager at its June 1 meeting. Barbara Burns Matthews has accepted the position and will begin on July 12, 2004.

Matthews will bring to the position of City Manager 18 years of local government experience, most recently as City Administrator of Manchester, Missouri.

"I am honored to have been selected as the next City Manager for Takoma Park. During the selection process, I had the opportunity to meet many city officials and community leaders and was impressed with everyone's commitment and dedication to Takoma Park. I look forward to assuming my duties as City Manager on July 12, 2004" said Matthews.

The City followed an extensive process over the course of about 6 months to select the City Manager. A Citizen's City Manager Search Committee as well as a consultant were enlisted to assure that all community needs were identified and that the process was inclusive. The nationwide search yielded over 75 resumes, with 5 selected as finalists. Three candidates were ultimately interviewed by the Council, the Committee and city department heads.

Nancy Cohen and Dan Robinson, co-chairs of the Search Committee, stated that, "We are pleased with the selection of Barbara Burns Matthews as our City Manager. Her selection is the result of a successful collaboration of the Mayor, Council, a consultant hired by the City and the City Manager Selection Committee. As its contributions to the selection process, the Committee conducted a public forum and surveyed residents to better understand the most important issues facing our community. The 32 member Committee also drafted the position description and questions to which the top candidates provided written and oral responses. The Committee feels that this is an exciting and challenging time for the City and that Ms. Matthews is the right person to assume this leadership role. We welcome her and her family to Takoma Park."

Howard Kohn, Committee Member, commented, "My first prediction for our 32-member committee was longwinded bickering and perhaps stalemate. Instead, thanks especially to Nancy Cohen, things ran smoothly. We met our deadlines, settled our disagreements and reached a consensus. In fact, we had so much fun we held a party at Nancy's house afterward just to see each other one more time!"

Mayor Kathy Porter stated, "We are delighted to have Barbara Matthews joining the Takoma Park staff as our new city manager. In addition to her extensive city management experience, the city council was impressed with her commitment to citizen service." "We are also very grateful for the work of the citizen City Manager Selection Committee. The dedication and thoughtfulness the committee members brought to this process contributed greatly to our finding such a good candidate."

Matthews has held positions with the cities of Kansas City, Gladstone, and Kirkwood, Missouri. Matthews has an extensive background in all areas of municipal operations, including economic development, finance and budgeting, and labor relations. She has a bachelor's degree in economics and government from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in public affairs from Indiana University. As a native of Virginia, Ms. Matthews is delighted to be returning to the Mid-Atlantic region.

Ms. Matthews' compensation package will include a salary of \$105,000, with a \$1000 per month housing allowance, and \$400 per month car allowance. Moving and relocation expenses will be reimbursed.

Richard M. Finn, Takoma Park's current City Manager, will be stepping down from his position on July 11, 2004. Mr. Finn will be continuing to pursue his doctoral studies in Public Management.

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